



UTAH ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE December 2005

# Legislative Briefing

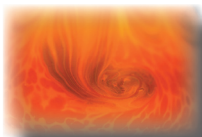
## Legislature Enhances ICAC

When it comes to protecting children from online predators, education and prosecution go hand in hand. Thanks to the legislature's support of House Bill 132, the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force (ICAC) received funding for a full-time public educator to relieve investigators from public speaking duties. Investigators now spend more time prosecuting dozens of predators instead of preparing for dozens of presentations.

The new ICAC Public Education Specialist, Meredith Mannebach, is in high demand to teach at regional and state conferences, schools, churches and for other large groups. The program is free and the curriculum varies depending on the audience. In fact, she is specifically targeting students in grades K-12 to teach them about making safe choices while on and off the computer.

As a result of the ICAC Public Education position, more presentations have been made to students, parents and professionals in three months than investigators could make in half a year. Also, several child predators have recently been arrested because investigators now have more time to schedule undercover operations.

Thanks again for giving our office the opportunity to increase education and prosecution in Utah.



## Heating, Lighting Utah

Turn off the heat, grab a coat and bear it. That is what some Utahns will be doing this winter because they can't afford to pay for rising heating costs. But winter is not the only time when the less fortunate need help paying the bills. In response to year-round demand, the Attorney General's Office is proposing legislation to statutorily authorize electric and natural gas lifeline rates. Low-income energy assistance is critical and will benefit the entire state. Assistant Attorney General Paul Proctor who represents the Utah Committee of Consumer Services is drafting the bill.

## 'Tis the Season

*It's that season again. Time for great food, lots of treats, parties with friends, and family memories never to be forgotten. It is also an opportunity to get some rest before the legislature starts in January! I look forward to working with you during the 2006 Legislative Session and wish you all a happy holiday season with enough sleep to last you through the spring.*

*Warm Regards,*

*-- Attorney General Mark Shurtleff*

## Hooray for HIPUtah

There is hope for Utahns who are declined insurance coverage because they have extreme sicknesses, such as cancer, diabetes, heart disease or chronic illness. There is even hope for the Utah Comprehensive Health Insurance Pool (HIPUtah), a non-profit entity that helps these patients pay for costly treatments.

The Tax and Revenue Division, which represents HIPUtah through the Utah Insurance Department, recently assisted in obtaining a \$1.4 million federal grant to help cover operating losses accumulated last year.

As of March 2005, the program had over 3,000 enrollees with more applicants on the way. The rising number of applicants and the increasing cost for treatment is making it difficult for the program to keep up with demand. This grant funding will help HIPUtah continue serving Utah's most severe patients.

The Attorney General's Office also appreciates the legislature for appropriating funds to HIPUtah each year. It is important to work together to insure the uninsurable in Utah.

## Teen Suicide Ranks #1

Shurtleff joined with Utah First Lady Mary Kaye Huntsman and introduced the Jason Foundation, to encouraged teachers, friends and family to get educated and speak up when they suspect someone is planning to commit suicide. This suicide prevention program uses a school-based curriculum for students, in-service presentations for teachers, seminars for parents and community-based presentations.

Utah's suicide rate for young males is the highest in the nation; a sad fact for families who have lost loved ones to this silent epidemic. Together Shurtleff and the First Lady invite the public to join efforts by the Jason Foundation as well as other local programs like the Hope Task Force and Hope for Tomorrow by the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill of Utah. Learn more at [www.jasonfoundation.com](http://www.jasonfoundation.com).

## Gun Crime Crack Down

Police pick them up and state prosecutors put them away. This cooperation is part of the federal Project Safe Neighborhood (PSN) program that both sides of law enforcement use to target felons with firearms on Utah streets. In just four years, the PSN unit has successfully indicted 1,500 gun criminals who are now serving over 3,000 years of prison time.

This program not only removes dangerous felons from the community but Utah taxpayers are saving over \$4 million in incarceration costs alone. Since all PSN cases can be prosecuted in federal courts, the federal government pays for the prison expenses. The PSN project helps Utah law enforcement prevent potential harm to local neighborhood residents by locking up these felons with firearms. More information on Project Safe Neighborhood can be found at [www.whitehouse.gov](http://www.whitehouse.gov). Here are a few recent cases:

### "Utah's Most Wanted"

**– Andrew Jaramillo –** While leading Ogden police officers on a high-speed chase through local neighborhoods, Andrew Jaramillo reached for a loaded firearm that was tucked into his waistband and shot. Luckily, when police caught up and arrested him, they found that he accidentally hit himself in the leg during his attempt to flee. Jaramillo has a serious criminal history involving drug distribution and crimes of violence. He faces a minimum mandatory sentence of 15 years in federal prison.

### United States v. Sean Allred

– After a feud with city officials and a parole officer in Ferron City, Utah, law enforcement found a defense bunker on Sean Allred's remote property. Two sawed-off shotguns, additional firearms and numerous ammunition stashes were discovered in several locations. Following his arrest, Allred made threats about Kevlar-clad men jumping the counter at the Adult Probation & Parole Office with "lead flying." State attorneys recently won a federal court trial that will send Allred to prison 15 - 20 years.

## New Safety Zone for Victims of D.V.

Recent domestic homicides in Utah are the latest examples of how a seemingly simple child visit can turn deadly. Attorney General Mark Shurtleff and South Valley Sanctuary opened a new center that greatly reduces the danger of these exchanges by allowing one parent to drop off a child for a visit without having any contact with the accused abuser.

All-R-Kids or ARK is Utah's first non-profit, supervised child visitation and exchange center. The center serves as a neutral drop-off point for children who can then leave with the visiting parent, or as a location for children to visit with the parent under supervision. Victims are never charged and accused abusers pay on a sliding scale fee system. Parents agree to follow strict safety rules, stagger arrival and departure times, and use separate entrances. There are also cameras, security doors and panic buttons for security.

"We have learned from sad experience that child exchanges can be dangerous even when they are done in public places. This center will save lives," said Shurtleff. For more information about ARK, call 801-747-2131.



**ALL-R-KIDS**

Visitation & Exchange Center

The Attorney General's Office represents the State in thousands of cases each year. If you need information on any matter being handled by our office, please contact Dave Johnson at 538-1357 or [davidjohnson3@utah.gov](mailto:davidjohnson3@utah.gov).